

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 623

By Evans

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Jo Ann Nickens for a lifetime of service to veterans and her community.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to salute those estimable Tennesseans who have devoted their lives to serving their fellow citizens, giving freely of themselves to others with no regard for what they might receive in return; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Jo Ann Nickens; for most of her life, Mrs. Nickens has worked to improve the quality of life for all the people of her community, especially veterans; and

WHEREAS, born Jo Ann Parker on December 11, 1938, she is a native of Castalian Springs; earlier in life, she married and had three children, Frankie Dale Brawner, who passed away in 1978, Jimmy Wayne Brawner, who passed away in 1992, and Carolyn Brawner Stringer; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, she married Thomas Nickens, Jr., a veteran of the United States Navy; Mr. Nickens brought three children to the marriage: Margaret Moore, Jenny Nickens, and Eddie Nickens; and

WHEREAS, from the outset of their life together, Mr. and Mrs. Nickens devoted themselves to helping veterans who needed a place to stay; when the Veterans Administration hospital treated a veteran without a family, someone from the institution would contact Jo Ann and Thomas Nickens, who would take the veteran into their own home; and

WHEREAS, the couple founded Nickens' Rest Home and opened its doors to veterans who had no other place to live; when it was located on Greer Road outside of Ridgetop, the facility could accommodate as many as twenty veterans at one time; and

WHEREAS, although Thomas Nickens, Jr., passed away February 25, 2005, Jo Ann Nickens continues to provide a home for those in need; she currently cares for and feeds five gentlemen: World War II veterans Erland Wix, Joe Hurst, and Paul Lee, Gulf War veteran Tim Lowe, and non-veteran Jim Cress; and

WHEREAS, the success of this State, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people like Jo Ann Nickens who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nickens has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the noble precepts of public service, and for her efforts she should be duly recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Jo Ann Nickens for a lifetime of service to veterans and her community, thank her for all she has done to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.